

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW AUSTRALIAN GRASS.

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PANICUM TULCUMBENSE, sp.nov.

Stems perennial, from a rather prominent, knotty base, attaining a height of two or more feet, glabrous except for a few remote, small tubercles surmounted with short, fine hairs. Leaves ample, from three to eight inches long, about four lines broad, flat and tapering into long, fine points. Panicle from seven to eleven, or rarely more, inches long, on rather long peduncles, loose, narrow, pendulous, with alternate, distant, primary, filiform branches, the lower ones about six inches or more long, the upper ones shorter. The lower secondary branches from one inch to three inches long, but variable. Spikelets rather crowded on the ultimate branches and on the upper portion of the panicle, all pedicellate and about one and one-half lines long. Outer glume about one-third the length of the spikelet, broad, acute, five-nerved; second glume broad, shortly acuminate, with seven to nine prominent nerves; third glume the longest, more acuminate, with five prominent nerves, enclosing a male flower with a large, acute palea. Fruiting glume about half the length of the spikelet, very shortly acuminate, shining, with five, very fine nerves. Palea shorter and very finely striate. Grain enclosed in the hardened fruiting glume and palea, but free from them.

Hab.—Tulcumbah, Liverpool Plains, N.S.W. (collected by Fred. Turner).

The indigenous species of *Panicum* allied to *P. tulcumbense* are *P. semitonsun*, F.v.M., and *P. antidotale*, Retz., two North Australian grasses. It differs from the former principally in the disposition of its inflorescence, and in not having the prominent, tuberculate, ciliate nerves on the spikelets; and from the latter in its more dwarf habit, and in not having a spreading panicle, and almost sessile, acuminate or mucronate spikelets.

P. tulcumbense is a capital forage plant.